

REMARKS

Claims 1-12, 23-31 and 36-41 are pending. Claims 28-31 are allowed. Claims 2-6, 25, and 26 are allowable but were objected to as depending upon a rejected base claim. Claims 1, 7, 8, 23, 24, 27, 36, and 38 have been amended to address formality objections by the Examiner. No new matter has been added.

ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 7-12, 23-24, 27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 5,601,455 (Bagga). Claim 1 recites a receptacle having at least one opening adapted for receipt of a corresponding blade of a compatible plug. The receptacle also includes at least one electrical contact located for contact with one of the blades of the compatible plug and dimensioned and oriented for compliance with an industry standard configuration. Claim 1 also recites a mating formation pair including a receptacle formation and a corresponding plug formation. The receptacle formation of the mating formation pair of claim 1 allows the compatible plug to establish electrical connection with the receptacle. The receptacle, however, prevents a general-use plug compliant with the industry standard configuration and lacking the plug formation of the mating formation pair from establishing electrical connection.

Bagga discloses a receptacle (20; Fig. 1) intended for 20Amp, 125 Volt service. The receptacle includes flat blade openings 24, 30 and a semicircular ground blade opening (28) arranged according to NEMA specification 5-20R. (Col. 3, line 6). The receptacle also includes a side slot (32) extending perpendicularly from one side of the flat blade opening (30). The side slot provides for receipt by the receptacle of a “special 20 Amp plug” having its white or neutral blade turned 90 degrees from the hot or black blade. (Col. 3, lines 10-13). By including both the industry standard opening (30) and the non-standard side slot (32), the receptacle (20) of Bagga is adapted to accept both the “special” plug as well as plugs configured in accordance with the industry standard.

Bagga does not disclose the required receptacle formation of a mating formation pair that prevents a general-use plug compliant with the industry standard configuration and

lacking the plug formation of the mating formation pair from establishing electrical connection. Bagga, therefore, does not show each feature of the claim 1. Thus, Bagga does not anticipate claim 1. Furthermore, it would not have been obvious to modify Bagga in the claimed manner. On the contrary, Bagga teaches directly away from the claimed construction by teaching a permissive receptacle that accepts both the industry standard plug as well as the “special” plug.

Each of claims 7-12, and 41 depends from claim 1 and, therefore, is not anticipated by Bagga for the same reasons as claim 1.

Claim 23 recites a receptacle unit including a first receptacle complying with a general-use industry standard configuration and a second receptacle. Claim 23 also recites a mating formation pair including a receptacle formation and a corresponding plug formation respectively carried by the second receptacle and a compatible plug. The receptacle formation of claim 23 prevents a general-use plug complying with an industry standard configuration from being inserted while permitting insertion of a compatible plug having the plug formation and otherwise complying with the industry standard configuration.

Again, Bagga does not disclose a receptacle formation of a mating formation pair that prevents a general-use plug complying with an industry standard configuration from being inserted while permitting insertion of a compatible plug having the plug formation and otherwise complying with the industry standard configuration. Bagga, therefore, does not anticipate claim 23. Each of claims 24 and 27 depends from claim 23 and, therefore, is also not anticipated by Bagga for the same reasons as claim 23.

Claim 36 recites an electrical distribution system comprising at least one general-use receptacle and at least one other receptacle. The general-use receptacle complies with an industry standard configuration and arranged to receive a corresponding general-use plug. The at least one other receptacle is adapted to prevent the general-use plug from being inserted while allowing a compatible plug that is non-compliant with the industry standard configuration from being inserted into it.

As discussed above, the permissive receptacle construction of Bagga accepts both a compatible “special” plug as well as a plug that is compliant with the industry standard configuration. The receptacle of Bagga, therefore, does not prevent insertion of a general-use

plug complying with the industry standard configuration as required by claim 36. Bagga, therefore, does not anticipate claim 36. Claim 37 depends from claim 36 and, therefore, is also not anticipated by Bagga for the same reasons as claim 36.

Claim 38 recites a face member for use with a receptacle including a body defining at least one opening for receipt of a blade of a compatible plug. Claim 38 also recites a receptacle formation presented by the body forming a mating formation pair with a corresponding plug formation presented by the compatible plug. The receptacle formation prevents plugs non-compatible plugs otherwise compliant with the industry standard that lack the plug formation from engaging the receptacle sufficiently to establish electrical connection. The receptacle formation, however, permits engagement by the compatible plug sufficient to establish electrical connection.

Again, the permissive receptacle construction of Bagga accepts both the standard industry-compliant plug as well as the “special” plug. The receptacle of Bagga does not prevent insertion of non-compatible plugs lacking the plug formation but otherwise compliant with the industry standard configuration, as required by claim 38. Bagga, therefore, does not anticipate claim 38.

Claim 39 recites a lighting system comprising a receptacle and a plug respectively defining a receptacle formation and a corresponding plug formation of a mating formation pair. The mating formation pair prevents a general-use plug not having the plug formation from establishing electrical connection with the receptacle. The receptacle, however, allows the plug having the plug formation to establish electrical connection. Claim 39 further recites that the plug formation is visible when the plug and receptacle are fully engaged with each other.

Again, the permissive receptacle of Bagga does not prevent a general-use plug not having the plug formation of a mating formation pair from establishing electrical connection with the receptacle, as required by claim 39. Also, the 90 degree turned neutral blade of the Bagga “special” plug will not be visible when the plug is inserted into the receptacle. Bagga, therefore, does not show a plug formation that is visible upon full engagement of the plug, as required by claim 39.

For the foregoing reasons, Bagga does not anticipate claim 39. Claim 40 depends from claim 39 and, therefore, is not anticipated by Bagga for the same reasons as claim 39.

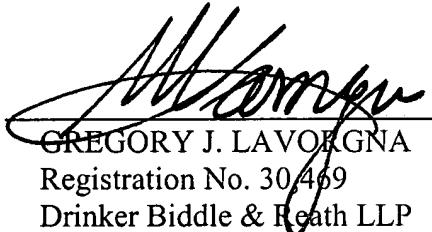
For the foregoing reasons, the applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1, 7-12, 23-24, 27, and 36-41 based on Bagga be withdrawn.

It is submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that direct communication would advance prosecution, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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